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219.40428X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: PEARSON et al.

Serial No.: 09/964,747

Filed: September 28, 2001

For: EXTENSION MECHANISM AND METHOD FOR ASSEMBLING
OVERHANGING COMPONENTS

Art Unit: 3729

Examiner: C. Arbes

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

JUN 14 2003

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RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 3, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 21, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-9 and 23-28. The election is made with traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of all claims 1-28 is sufficiently related that the subject matter of one of the groups would necessarily encompass the subject matter of the other group of claims. M.P.E.P. §803 clearly states that:

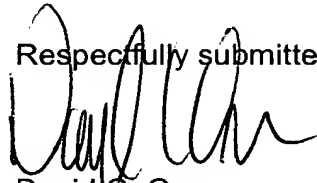
[I]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in this application to avoid unnecessary Patent Office examinations and undue burden on the applicants.

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SN - 09/964,747

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the local
Washington, D.C. area telephone number of (703) 312-6600 to discuss any matter in
relation to this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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